

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 EB-07 AF-06 EUR-12 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 /114 W

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R 300832Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4729

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPT. 27-29

1. SUMMARY: SARG USED OCCASION OF ANNIVERSARY OF NASSER'S DEATH TO CONTRAST EGYPTIAN POLICY AS CARVED OUT BY NASSER AND HIS SUCCESSORS. END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC

SEPT. 27 PRESS ANNOUNCED NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR CABLES OF SUPPORT. SEPT. 28-29 PRESS REPORTED RECEIPT OF CABLES OF SUPPORT FOR BAATH PARTY POSITION FROM SYRIAN ORGANIZATIONS. PARTY-ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE SEPT. 27 IN DAMASCUS, HAMA, LATAKIA, TARTOUS, MALKIAH, AND PALMYRA. SPEAKERS FROM BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP ADDRESSED MARCHERS. DEMONSTRATIONS HELD SEPT. 28 IN DAMASCUS, IDLIB, AND SMALLER VILLAGES AROUND COUNTRY. "TENS OF THOUSANDS" OF WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN DAMASCUS MARCH SEPT. 28, AND HEARD NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER SAMI AL-ATTARI DEPLORE SADAT'S DEVIATION FROM PRINCIPLES OF JULY 23 REVOLUTION.

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EVENING SAME DAY LARGE RALLY HELD AT DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY

TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY OF NASSER'S DEATH, AND SPEAKERS REPRESENTING SYRIAN INSTITUTIONS DEPLORED SADAT'S DECISION TO "DEVIATE FROM NASSER LINE," AND THROW HIMSELF "INTO ARMS OF IMPERIALISM." INTERESTINGLY, SPEAKER FOR PROGRESSIVE FRONT STATED THAT "GAINS ACHIEVED BY ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM ARE NOT OUTCOME OF KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY" BUT ARE OUTCOME OF NEW POLICY LINE FORCED UPON EGYPT.

FONMIN KHADDAM STATED SEPT. 27 BEFORE DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK THAT PURPOSE BEHIND HIS PARTICIPATION IN UNGA IS UNVEILING OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SINAI AGREEMENT ON WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AND ITS VIOLATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS. HE REPEATED EARLIER CHARGE THAT LEBANESE CRISIS PART OF "COMPREHENSIVE PLAN" AIMED AT FOMENTING DISPUTES AMONG ARABS TO PREVENT THEM FROM CONCENTRATING ON BATTLE AGAINST ZIONIST ENEMY. HE ADDED IN THIS REGARD NEW TWIST: "ONE OF THE FACTORS BEHIND THIS PLAN WHICH INTENDS TO DISRUPT LEBANON'S ROLE AS BANKING, COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES CENTER IS TO SHIFT THIS CENTER TO EGYPT." KHADDAM CRITICIZED EXISTENCE OF SECRET AGREEMENTS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE DENIED BY SADAT, A PARTY, BUT ADMITTED "UNEQUIVOCALLY" BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, THE MEDIATOR. HE CONCLUDED WITH ACCUSATION THAT PURPOSE BEHIND ISRAELI SCHEME TO SIGN AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM WHILE EGYPTIANS

SIGNED AGREEMENT IN GENEVA WAS TO GAIN ARAB RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL OF ISRAEL.

3. FOREIGN

SEPT. 27 PRESS REPORTED THAT "HOSTILE ISRAELI ACTS" COMMITTED AGAINST LEBANON CAME AS RESULT OF SINAI AGREEMENT. IT NOTED KISSINGER STATEMENT THAT AGREEMENT CONTAINS SECRET DOCUMENTS AND REPORT THAT U.S. AGREED IN SECRET PLEDGES TO SPEED-UP ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL. PRESS LAUDED ALGERIAN AL-MUJAHID ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMED THAT ARAB PEOPLE REJECTED AGREEMENT. KUWAITI FONMIN WILL PROTEST AMERICAN ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL IN UNGA SPEECH SEPT. 30, ACCORDING TO DAMASCUS PRESS. ALSO REPORTED THAT ISRAELI RESERVE OFFICERS WILL LEAD DRIVE TO INCREASE GOLAN SETTLEMENTS.

SEPT. 28-29 PRESS REPORTED THAT REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER BAJBUJ RETURNED FROM MOSCOW AND CARRIED MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS TO ASAD. MININFO DENIED AL-AHRAM ALLEGATIONS THAT SYRIA PREVENTING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

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4. COMMENTARY

COLUMNIST IN SEPT. 27 AL-THAWRAH DENOUNCED "CHEAP EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA." HE EXPRESSED ASSURANCE THAT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, WHO "WILL CERTAINLY STRAIGHTEN OUT THE SITUATION," HAVE NOT BEEN DECEIVED.

SEPT. 28 AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CRITICIZED CURRENT PORTRAYAL OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S SUFFERING AS RESULT OF NASSER'S PREOCCUPATION WITH PAN-ARAB ISSUES. ANOTHER AL-BAATH WRITER LIKENED SADAT TO

PETAINE AND EXPANDED ON "FRENCH PETAINE AND ARAB PETAINE." THIRD COLUMNIST

REGRETTED "PLACING NAME OF GREAT LEADER NASSER NEXT TO NAME OF HIS POLITICAL KILLER SADAT."

COLUMNIST IN SEPT. 28 AL-THAWRAH NOTED THAT SEPTEMBER MONTH OF ARAB DISASTERS, INCLUDING NASSER'S DEATH AND SINAI AGREEMENT.

SEPT. 29 AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CALLED UPON EGYPTIAN MASSES TO ISSUE THEIR VERDICT AGAINST "THOSE WHO ASSASSINATED ARAB CAUSE" BY SIGNING AGREEMENT. ANOTHER ACCUSED SADAT OF RENOUNCING FIFTY YEARS OF ARAB BLOOD AND HISTORY.

5. COMMENT: ANNIVERSARY OF NASSER'S DEATH HAS NOT IN PAST BEEN OCCASION FOR SUCH VAST OUTPOURING OF REGRET. SARG OBVIOUSLY UTILIZED OCCASION TO FOCUS ARAB ATTENTION ON SADAT'S "DEVIATION" FROM NASSER'S GOALS OF ARAB UNITY AND SOLIDARITY.
MURPHY

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